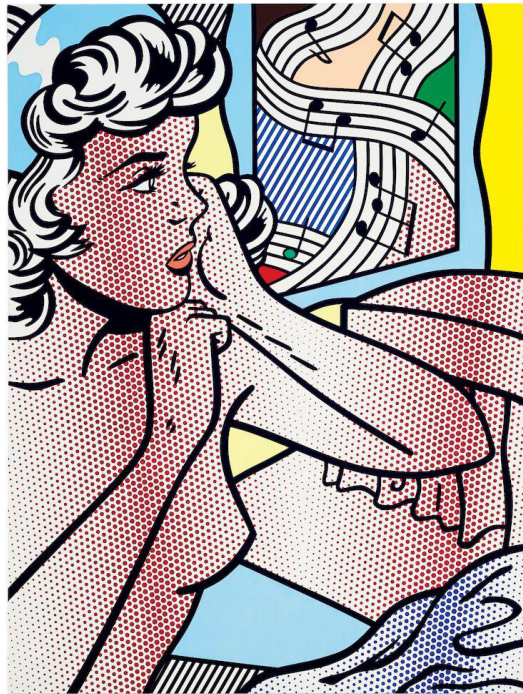


CHRISTIE'S

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ROY LICHTENSTEIN'S *NUDE WITH JOYOUS PAINTING* TO HIGHLIGHT ONE: A GLOBAL SALE OF THE 20TH CENTURY



New York – On July 10, **ONE: A Global Sale of the 20th Century** will be highlighted by Roy Lichtenstein's monumentally scaled, *Nude with Joyous Painting* (estimate in the region of \$30 million). Painted in 1994 and belonging to an important private American collection, *Nude with Joyous Painting* is a *tour-de-force* of Lichtenstein's consummate series of nudes that are acclaimed as the summation of his late career. The *Nudes* mark Lichtenstein's return to the comic-book heroines that propelled him to fame in the early 1960s and together, they rank among his most significant bodies of work. Culled from his prodigious archive of vintage comics, the *Nudes* marry Lichtenstein's Pop Art sensibility with the most storied subject in the history of Western art—the female nude. “The later women paintings and nudes that Roy did are just absolutely gorgeous,” the artist Jeff Koons has affirmed, “in terms of beauty and engaging imagery--interesting, viral imagery--the women are fantastic.” This sale will mark *Nude with Joyous Painting*'s auction debut.

Ana Maria Celis, Head of Evening Sale, Post-War and Contemporary Art, remarked: “Nude with Joyous Painting is an iconic example of Lichtenstein's series of *Nudes*. This *tour-de-force* of Pop Art marks his return to the comic book heroines that launched his career in the early 60s. In this

work, the beautiful heroine is caught in dramatic moment of suspense in stark contrast to a jubilant interior scene."

The present work joins the ranks of the most important examples of Lichtenstein's *Nudes* that have been offered at auction. Christie's leads the market for this iconic motif, having sold the artist's top two most expensive nudes, including *Seductive Girl*, 1996 for \$31.5 million in 2013, and *Nude with Red Shirt*, 1995, for \$28 million in 2012.

Shortly after it was painted, *Nude with Joyous Painting* was debuted at Leo Castelli's SoHo gallery in November of 1994. There, it was included in a group of seven breakthrough large-scale nude paintings, several of which are in major American public collections, including *Nude at Vanity*, 1994 (San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Doris and Donald Fisher Collection) and *Nude with Pyramid*, 1994 (The Broad, Los Angeles).

As a series, the *Nudes* were the first body of work that Lichtenstein undertook following his extensive Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum retrospective in New York in 1993. The series has been described as "formally groundbreaking" by the curator of Lichtenstein's 2012 retrospective organized by the Art Institute of Chicago and Tate Modern, Sheena Wagstaff, who characterized them as "monumental celebrations of domesticated eroticism."

A painting fraught with melodrama and suggestive narratives, *Nude with Joyous Painting* rivals that of even the earlier 1960s comic-book paintings. Its formal structure, visual simplicity and zoomed-in, close-up cropping is very much aligned with the earlier '60s *Girl* paintings. One important element differentiates this group of *Nudes* from their '60s predecessors however. As the curator Avis Berman has observed, their handsome leading man is notably absent. "The 1990s nudes take pleasure in their own company, without the slightest hint of needing or missing a man," Berman explained. "In contrast to Lichtenstein's original romance-comic pictures, this world flourishes exuberantly without men or engagement rings or kisses."

On the occasion of Lichtenstein's solo show at Leo Castelli in late 1994—in what proved to be one of his last exhibits before his untimely death in 1997—the *New York Daily News* declared: "*The king of the blown-up comic-book frame had seemed to be settling into a quiet, Old Masterly period of late—but he's broken out with a bang with his new series of nudes.*" Indeed, Lichtenstein's culminating series of *Nudes* rank among his greatest, most complex bodies of work. As an artist who ceaselessly innovated while staying true to his signature style, Lichtenstein's *Nudes* reveal ingenious new formal devices—especially his new form of Ben-Day dots, a rich array of new color and "quoting" of previous work. More than just an erotic pin-up, they are rich with art historical references and cleverly-veiled allusions to the act of looking itself.

ONE: A Global Sale of the 20th Century: This July, Christie's will launch a revolutionary relay-style auction concept. Entitled **ONE: A Global Sale of the 20th Century**, this sale will present masterpiece-level works of 20th Century Art together in a curated live-online hybrid sale, blurring category boundaries and bringing clients together in an unprecedented way.

Launching in Hong Kong, the sale will then transition to auctioneers in Paris and London, concluding in New York. Each city will host a pre-sale public exhibition staged in line with the appropriate regional health advice at the time, complemented by a ground-breaking virtual exhibition and digital marketing campaign to connect with global audiences and support the auction event. Bidders will be

able to participate both online, via Christie's LIVE online bidding channel, and where regional, government advice allows, clients and phone bidders will be welcomed in each saleroom location.

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had auction sales in the first half of 2019 that totalled £2.2 billion / \$2.8 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

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